New EU Forest Strategy for 2030

14 December 2023

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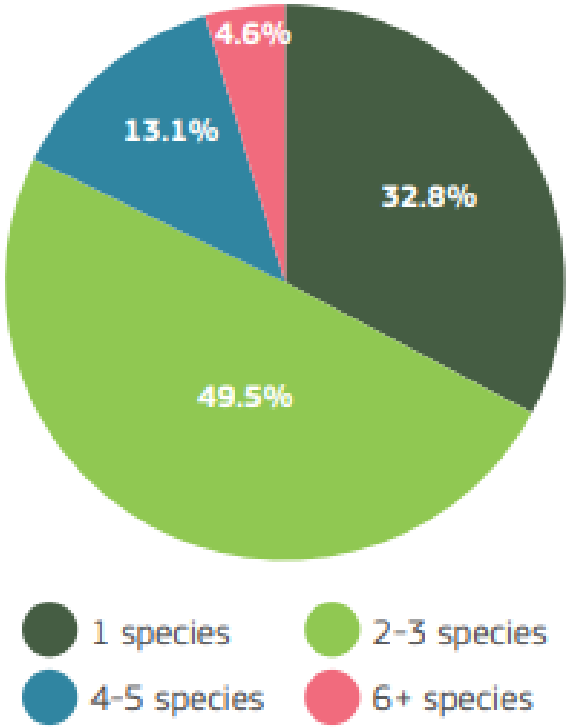
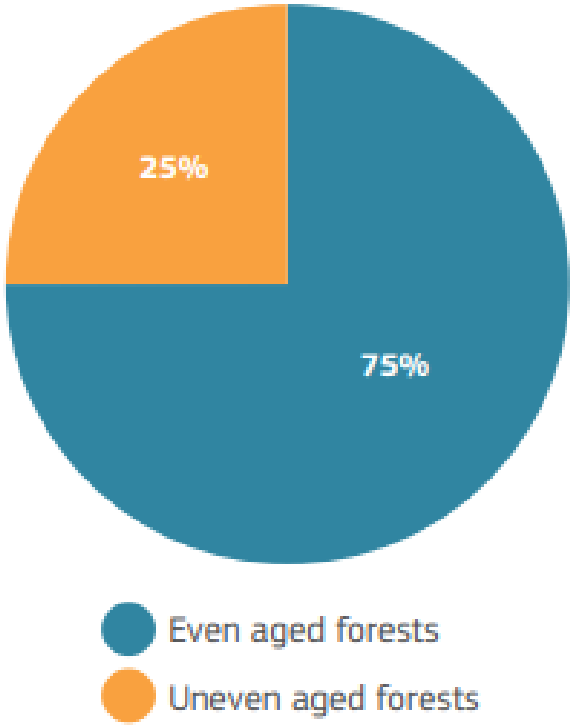
Figure 1: Forest area in Europe classified by number of tree species occurring in 2015

Figure 2: Forest age structure in the EU (2020)

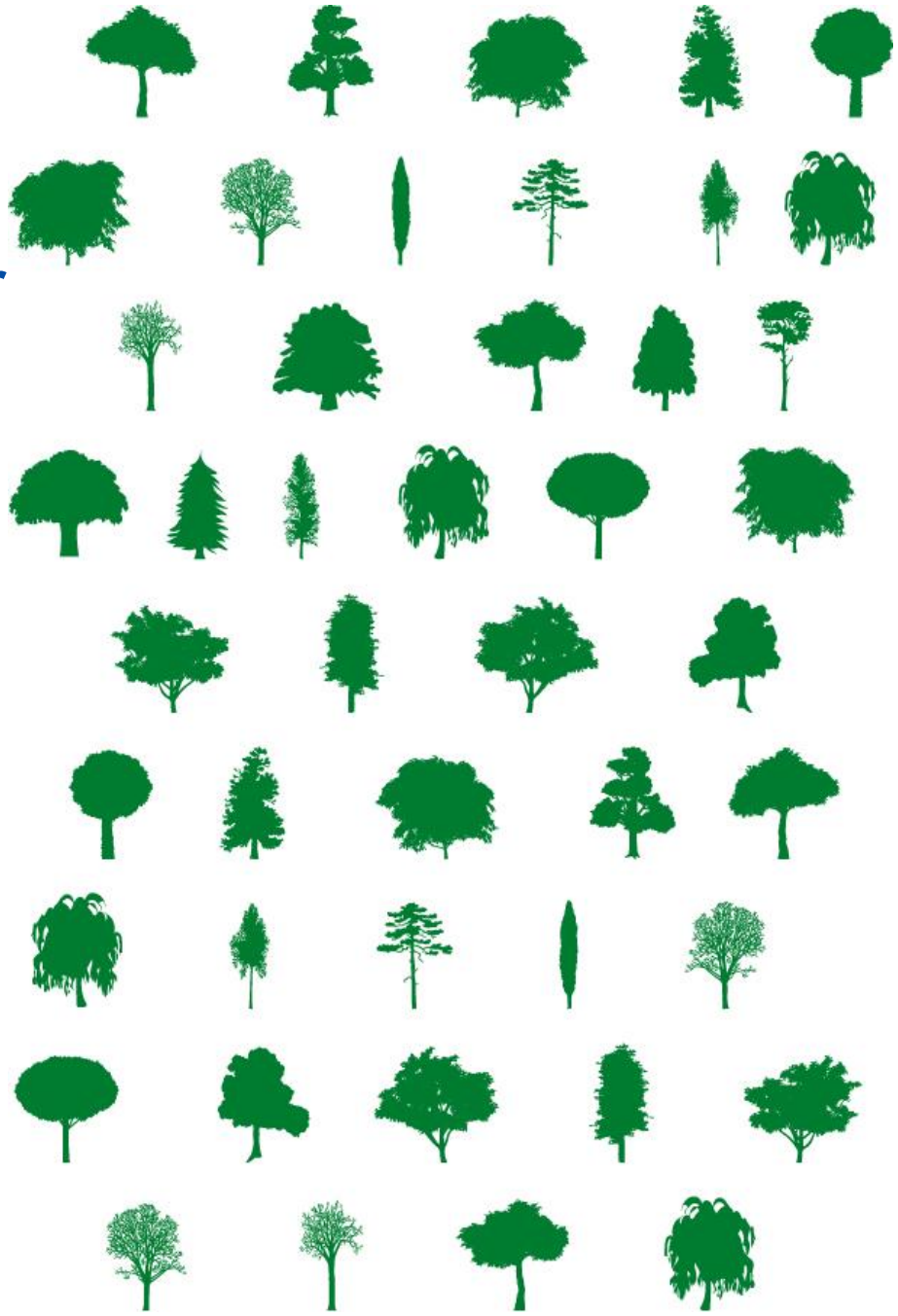


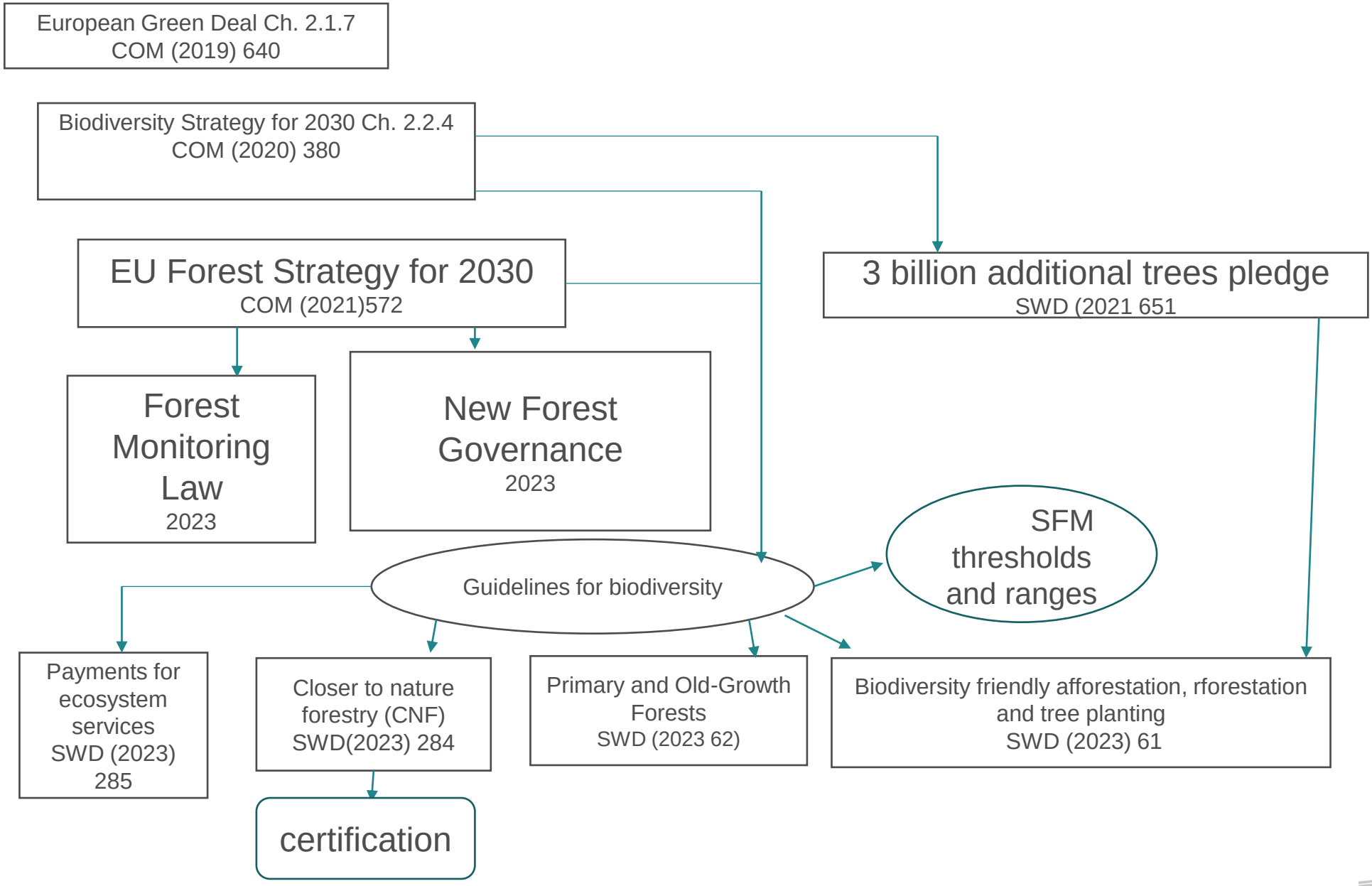


EU Forest Strategy for 2030:

“Bigger, better and stronger forests for our future”

- Thriving rural areas & sustainable bio-economy
- Healthy and resilient forest ecosystems
- Adequate forest monitoring, reporting & data collection
- A strong research & innovation agenda
- Inclusive & coherent governance
- Effective implementation & enforcement





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Supporting the socio-economic functions of forests for thriving rural areas and boosting forest-based bio-economy within sustainability boundaries

Promoting sustainable forest bioeconomy for long-lived wood products

Ensuring sustainable use of wood-based resources for bioenergy

Promoting non-wood forest-based bioeconomy, including ecotourism

Developing skills and empowering people for sustainable forest-based bioeconomy

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Protecting, restoring and enlarging EU's forests to combat climate change, reverse biodiversity loss and ensure resilient and multifunctional forest ecosystems

Protecting EU's last remaining primary and old-growth forests

Ensuring forest restoration and reinforced sustainable forest management for climate adaptation and forest resilience

Re- and afforestation of biodiverse forests

Financial incentives for forest owners and managers for improving the quality and quantity of EU forests

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Guidelines
on biodiversity-friendly afforestation, reforestation and tree planting

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Guidelines
on Closer-to-Nature Forest Management

Brussels, 27 July 2023

Environment

European Commission

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Commission guidelines

for defining, mapping, monitoring and strictly protecting EU primary and old-growth forests

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 27.7.2023
SWD(2023) 285 final

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

Guidance on the Development of Public and Private Payment Schemes for Forest Ecosystem Services

Guidelines on Biodiversity-Friendly Afforestation, Reforestation and Tree Planting

Part 1:
Forest Ecosystems

Part 2:
Urban Areas

Part 3:
Agricultural Land

Part 4:
Financing

Four main cases/situations:

1. Reforestation after planned tree harvesting
2. Reforestation after natural disturbances (storms, droughts, pests, fires)
3. Restoration/enrichment planting in order to diversify forest stands
4. Afforestation (conversion of agricultural, industrial or urban land into forest or wooded land)

Before Afforestation and Reforestation Part 1

Choose the correct area

avoid wetlands (e.g. peatland) and areas with high climate mitigation potential, consider landscape ecology, land owners…

Evaluate the Biodiversity and soil

identify habitat and soil type/health

Choose the right species

local adaptation, CC resilience, native, mixing of species…

Adapt nurseries

promote production of native species and local ecotypes

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During Afforestation and Reforestation Part 1

Sustainably use and nurture soil, protect the water cycle

- High diversity of fungi is prerequisite for healthy forests
- Avoid subsoil displacement and the use of nitrogen fertilizers
- Manual planting when possible
- Avoid heavy machinery (especially in wet conditions)
- …

Protect habitats

- Maintain pioneer species in open forest and bare soil
- Keep deadwood (varying in size and stage)
- Maintain diversity of stands
- Promote existing regeneration and understory
- Avoid whole tree harvesting (Reforestation)
- …

After Afforestation and Reforestation

- **Monitoring** is essential
- Control competing vegetation mechanically
- Set measures to achieve a Biodiversity beneficial grazing pressure
- Protect existing or expected seedlings

Promoting Ecosystem Services in Urban Area

Part 2

Ecosystem services and urban agenda

Trees are key elements

Minimise disservices

Consider allergy-causing potential in relation to distribution of trees

Choose the right species to provide ecosystem services

Context specific

Involve citizens in urban areas

maintenance and monitoring

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Target different types of urban green spaces

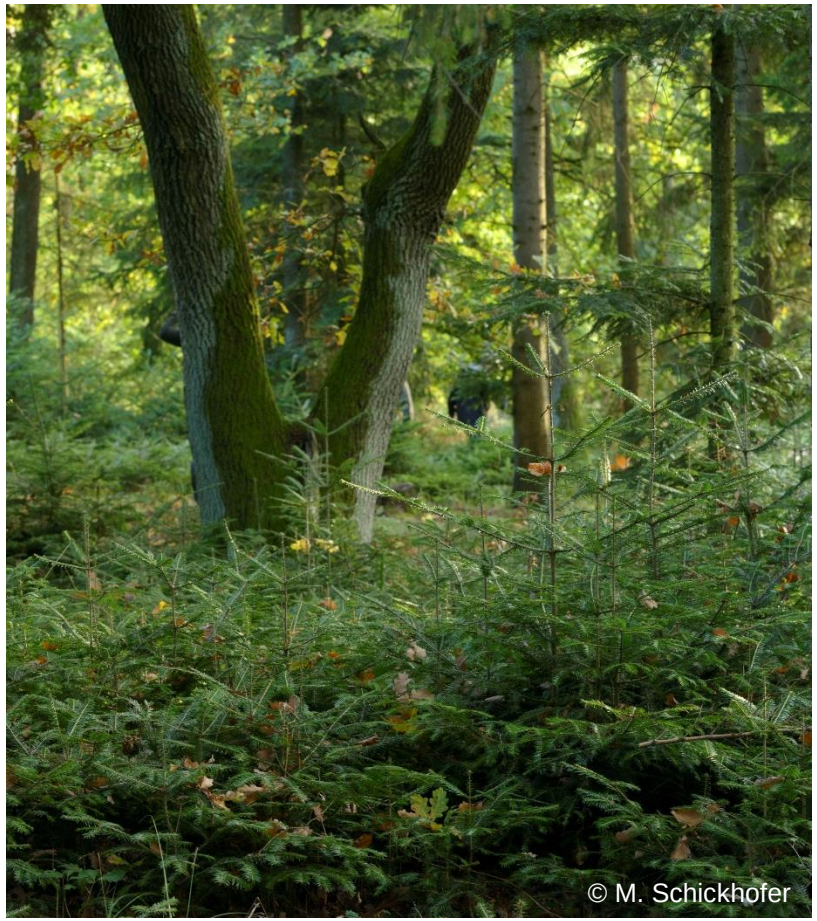
Part 2

- Parks
- Residential and private gardens
- Informal green spaces
- Streets and squares – corridor function
- other areas – rooftops, parking lots, balconies…

Agroforestry systems and practices

Tree location	Agroforestry system	Agroforestry practice	
		Agricultural land	Forest land
Trees inside parcels	Silvopastoral agroforestry	1. Wood pasture	9. Forest grazing
	Silvoarable agroforestry	2. Tree alley cropping 3. Coppice alley cropping 4. Multi-layer tree-gardens	10. Multi-layer tree gardens
	Permanent crop agroforestry	5. Orchard intercropping 6. Orchard grazing	
	Agro-silvo-pasture	7. Alternating cropping and grazing	
Trees between parcels	Tree landscape features (addressed by CAP conditionality rules)	8. Tree landscape features: protected hedges, scattered individual trees, trees in line, small groups of trees	
Trees in settlements	Urban agroforestry	Home gardens, allotments, etc.	

Guidelines on Closer to Nature Forest Management



Rationale

Scope and Principles

Management Toolbox

Critical Enablers

CNF in different Regions

Good practice

General principles

- Learning from and permitting natural processes to develop
- Maintain the heterogeneity and complexity of forest structures and patterns
- Integrate forest functions at different spatial scales
- Use a variety of silvicultural systems based on natural disturbance patterns of the region
- Low-impact timber harvesting with equal attention to what is retained in the forest as to what is removed, thereby preserving habitats, forest soil and microclimate

Main objectives

Enhance structural complexity

Closer-to-nature forest management strives to create forests that are more:

- Heterogeneous and diverse in height, diameter, age and species
- Mixed with denser and sparser parts

…according to their natural mix of species and structures, forest type and phase of development

Promote natural forest dynamics

Closer-to-nature forest management relies as much as possible on natural dynamics to:

- Reduce investment costs (e.g. planting in the long-term)
- Promote structural complexity

…light interventions to orientate natural dynamics in line with objectives and the natural range and distribution of existing and potential species of the considered site

Closer to Nature Forest Management Toolbox

- Natural tree regeneration
- Respectful harvest conditions
- Minimize management interventions
- Forest Soil and Water
- Optimizing Deadwood
- Setting areas aside
- Scale-specific approach
- Managing ungulate species

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Guidelines for

Defining, Mapping, Monitoring and Strictly Protecting EU Primary & Old-growth Forests

Defining
- Reliable & scientifically sound definitions
- Focus strict protection on forest type with high ecological value

Mapping
- Based on set definitions, criteria & indicators
- Public and private forests
- Guarantee public availability and transparency

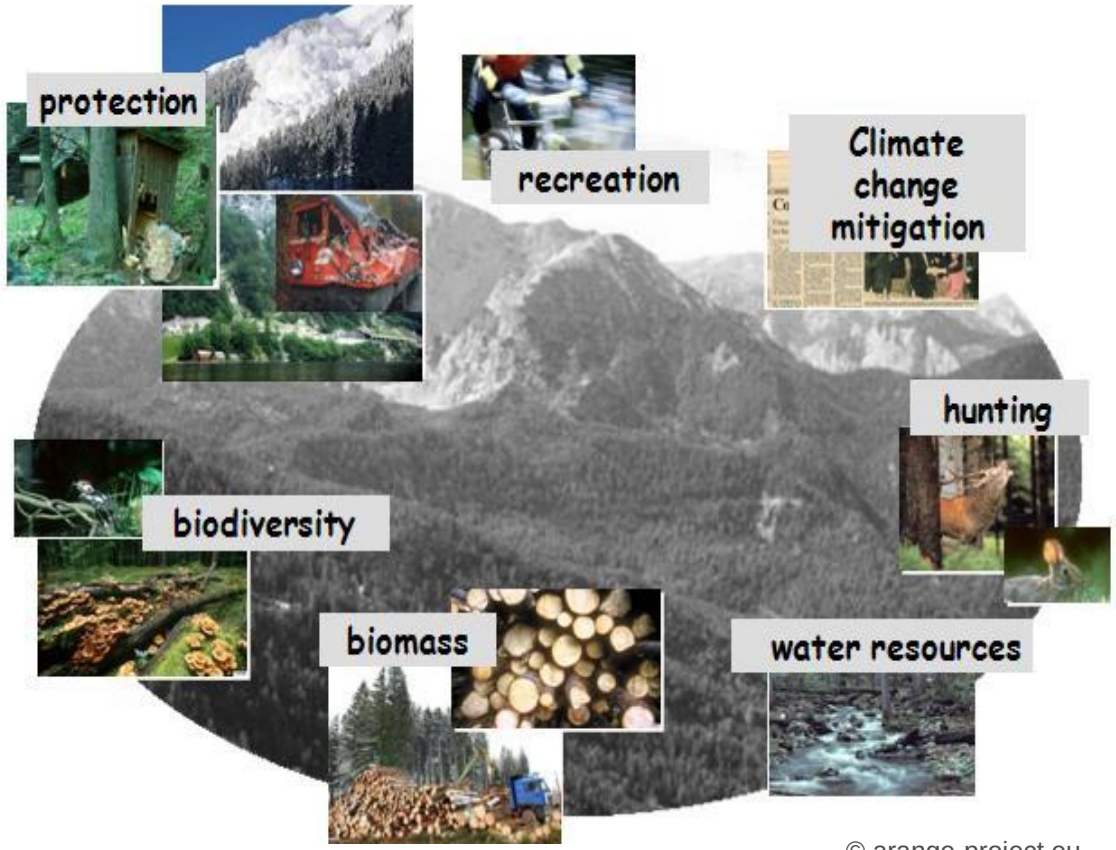
Monitoring
- Coordinate/ integrate with NFI, EUHD, FISE
- Indicators: native species, deadwood, old or large trees, stand origin, structural complexity, habitat trees and indicator species

Strict Protection
- Case-by-case assessment of permissible activities
- Management only to enhance or support natural processes
- Legal protection

Finance

Indicative timetable for implementation

Guidance on the development of Public and Private Schemes for Forest Ecosystem Services



Forest Ecosystem Services in a nutshell

Valuation and assessment of ecosystem services

EU Funding and Support

Private schemes

Development of PFES

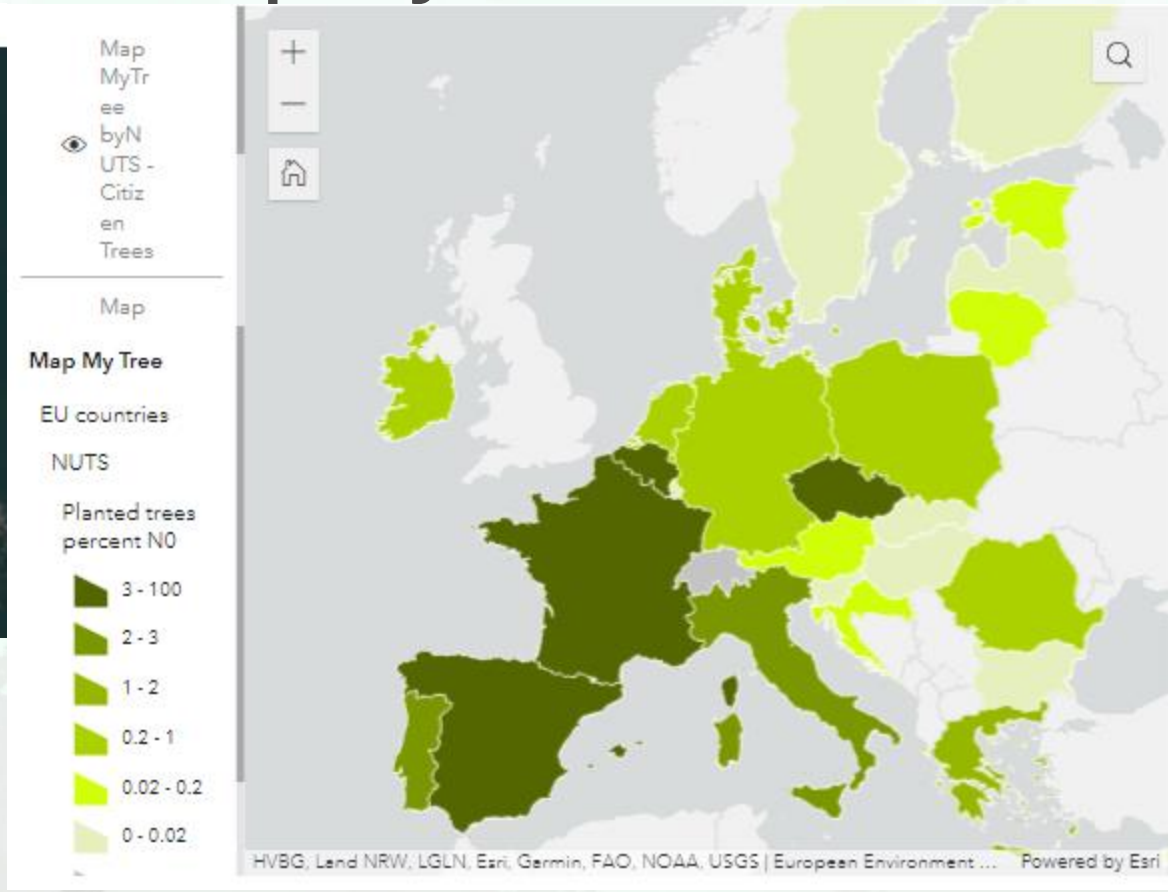
Good practice & Case studies


THREE
BILLION
ADDITIONAL
TREES
BY 2030
WE GROW
TOGETHER
#3BillionTrees

Tree planting: Basic principles

#3BillionTrees

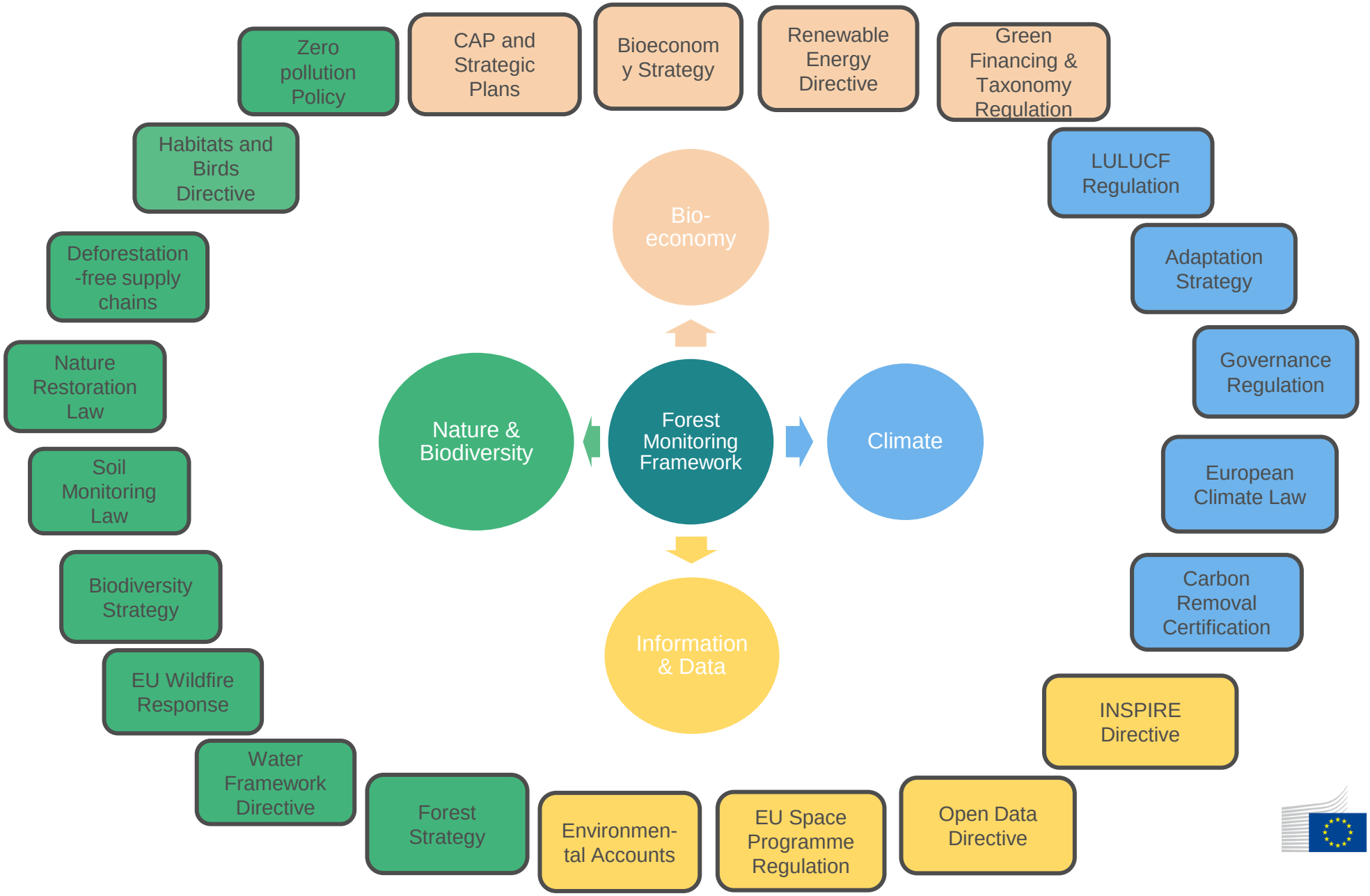
EU counter: MapMyTree



#3BillionTrees

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/biodiversity-strategy-2030/3-billion-trees_en
3 Billion Trees (europa.eu)

The policy context



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Scope of the forest data collection framework

(Articles 5 and 8 & Annexes I, II & III)

Forest data subject to standardisation

- Forest area
- Tree cover density
- Forest type
- Forest connectivity
- Defoliation
- Forest fires
- Wildfire risk assessment
- Tree cover disturbances

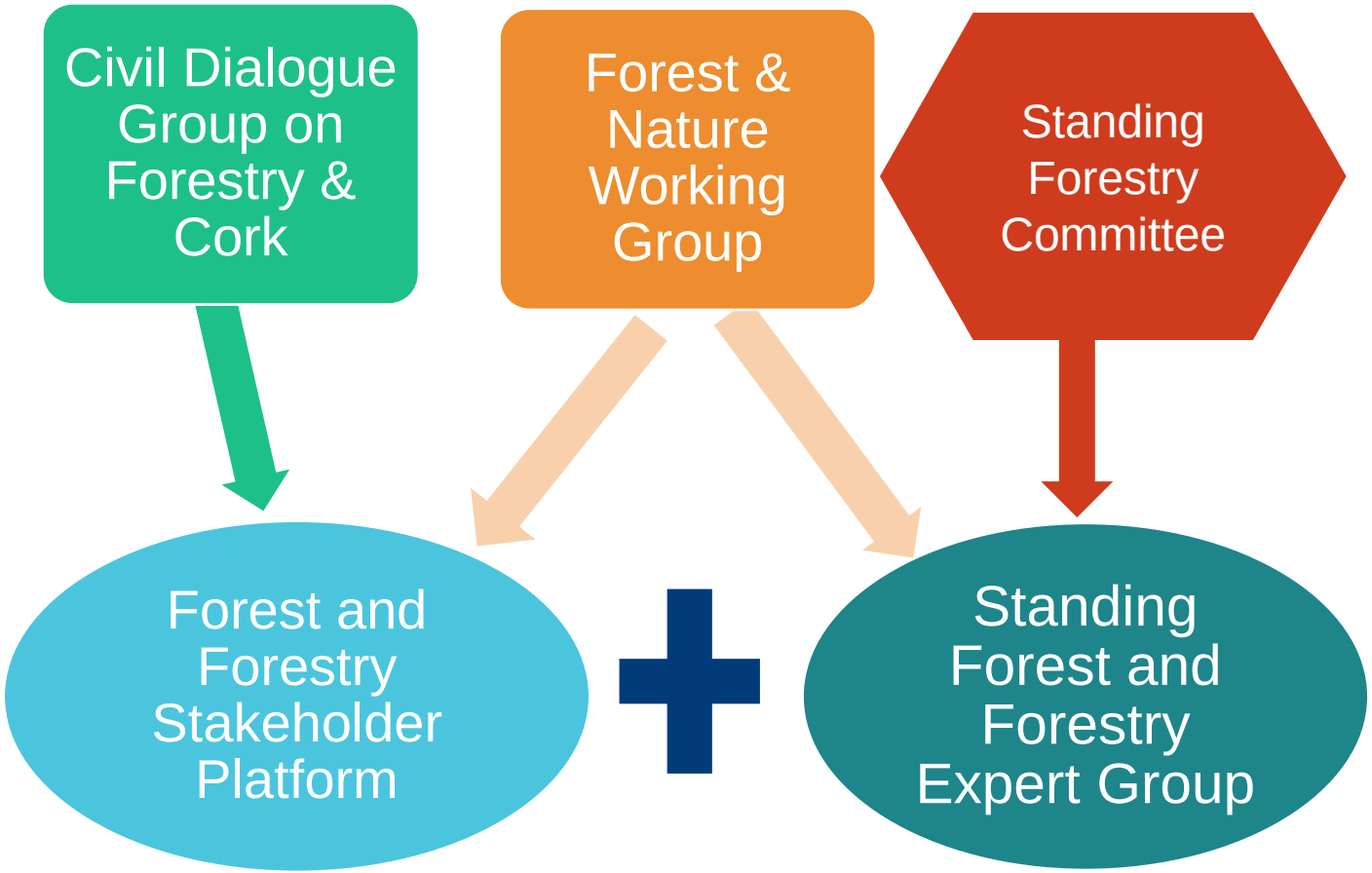
Forest data subject to harmonisation

- Forest available and not available for wood supply
- Growing stock volume
- Net annual increment
- Stand structure
- Tree species composition
- European Forest Type
- Removals
- Deadwood
- Protected forest areas
- Location N2K forest habitats
- Common forest birds Abundance
- Primary and old-growth forest
- Wood production & trade
- Forest biomass for bioenergy

Forest data to be collected through a step-wise approach to be developed by Commission in cooperation with Member States

- Forest disturbance other than fires
- Aboveground biomass
- Forest structure
- Value of non-wood forest products
- Forest habitats outside N2K sites
- Forest naturalness classes
- Invasive species presence
- Diversity of non-tree vegetation
- Threatened species
- Other wooded land

New EU forest governance system



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Thank you for your attention!

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